

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for making a molded container from a plastic resin ~~stored at ambient conditions~~, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

~~A) reducing the absorbed oxygen in the plastic resin by~~ contacting ~~the a plastic~~ resin with an oxygen-depleted atmosphere;

~~B) heating the plastic resin to a temperature at which the plastic resin can be extruded;~~

~~C) extruding a quantity of the plastic resin into a mold;~~

~~D) blowing the plastic resin against the mold to form a molded container;~~

~~E) pressuring and flushing the molded resin container with an inert gas;~~

~~F) depressuring the molded resin container; and~~

~~G) releasing a the molded container from the mold.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~A method for making a molded container as recited in claim 1, wherein the contacting step (a) contacting the plastic resin with an oxygen-depleted atmosphere~~ occurs at a temperature between about 120°C and about 170°C.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the oxygen-depleted atmosphere is ~~A method for making a molded container as recited in claim 1, wherein the contacting step (A) occurs in atmosphere~~ substantially devoid of oxygen.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 ~~A method for making a molded container as recited in claim 1, wherein the mold is maintained at a temperature between about 50°F and about 150°F, and the pressuring/flushing gas is at a temperature below about 0°F.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein ~~A method for making a molded container as recited in claim 1, wherein the blowing step (D) is performed using the inert gas is~~ at or near ambient temperature.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for making a molded container from a plastic resin ~~stored at ambient conditions~~, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

- ~~A) drying the plastic resin in an oxygen-depleted atmosphere;~~
- ~~B) heating the dried plastic resin to a temperature at which the plastic resin can be extruded;~~
- C) extruding a quantity of ~~the~~ a plastic resin into a mold;
- D) blowing the plastic resin against the mold to form a molded container;
- E) pressuring and flushing the molded ~~resin~~ container with an inert gas;
- F) depressuring the molded ~~resin~~ container; and
- G) releasing a the molded container from the mold.

8. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the mold is maintained at a temperature between about 50°F and about 150°F.

9. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about 0°F.

10. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about -100°F.

11. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas is at or near ambient temperature.

12. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the plastic resin is blown against the mold using the inert gas.

13. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the inert gas comprises nitrogen, carbon dioxide, argon, or a chlorofluorocarbon.

14. (New) The method of Claim 7, wherein the plastic resin comprises polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate glycol, a derivative thereof, or a copolymer thereof.

15. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about 0°F.

16. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the inert gas is at a temperature below about -100°F.

17. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plastic resin is blown against the mold using the inert gas.

18. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the inert gas comprises nitrogen, carbon dioxide, argon, or a chlorofluorocarbon.

19. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the plastic resin comprises polycarbonate, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyethylene terephthalate, polyethylene terephthalate glycol, a derivative thereof, or a copolymer thereof.

20. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein contacting a plastic resin with an oxygen-depleted atmosphere comprises drying the plastic resin in the oxygen-depleted atmosphere

21. (New) An extrusion blow pin, comprising:
an outer blow rod operable to supply a first gas used for blowing plastic resin against a mold to form a molded container; and
an inner blow rod operable to supply a second gas used for pressuring and flushing the molded container.